



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Committee Bill No. 5058**

LCO No. 4065

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF CERTAIN MORATORIA  
RELATED TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16-24j of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, no  
5 state agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of  
6 Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council, shall  
7 render a final decision for any applications relating to electric  
8 transmission lines from Bethel to Norwalk including, but not limited  
9 to, applications that are pending or received on and after June 3, 2002,  
10 until [February 1,] October 15, 2003. During such interim period, the  
11 Institute for Sustainable Energy shall chair and convene a working  
12 group comprised of: (1) Two representatives chosen by the chief  
13 elected officials of Bethel, Redding, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk, one  
14 of whom shall have environmental expertise and one of whom shall  
15 have energy expertise; (2) one representative of the Connecticut Fund  
16 for the Environment; (3) two representatives of the applicant company;

17 and (4) one representative of the New England Independent System  
18 Operator, Inc. and develop a comprehensive assessment and report on:  
19 (A) The economic considerations and environmental preferences and  
20 appropriateness of installing such transmission lines underground or  
21 overhead; (B) the feasibility of meeting all or part of the electric power  
22 needs of the region through distributive generation; and (C) the  
23 electric reliability, operational and safety concerns of the region's  
24 transmission system and the technical and economic feasibility of  
25 addressing those concerns with currently available electric  
26 transmission system equipment. The Institute for Sustainable Energy  
27 shall publish its report on or before January 1, 2003, and shall also  
28 include recommendations for any legislative changes deemed  
29 necessary as a result of such assessment. Any decision or opinion  
30 rendered on any application for an electric transmission line from  
31 Bethel to Norwalk by either the Department of Environmental  
32 Protection or the Connecticut Siting Council after the publication of  
33 such comprehensive assessment and report, shall be evaluated to  
34 determine such application's consistency with such assessment.  
35 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent routine  
36 maintenance and repair of such electric transmission lines.

37 Sec. 2. Section 25-157 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

39 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, no  
40 state agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of  
41 Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council, shall  
42 consider or render a final decision for any applications relating to  
43 electric power line crossings, gas pipeline crossings or  
44 telecommunications crossings of Long Island Sound including, but not  
45 limited to, electrical power line, gas pipeline or telecommunications  
46 applications that are pending or received after June 3, 2002, [for a  
47 period of one year after June 3, 2002] until October 15, 2003. Such  
48 moratorium shall not apply to applications relating solely to the  
49 maintenance, repair or replacement necessary for repair of electrical

50 power lines, gas pipelines or telecommunications facilities currently  
 51 used to provide service to customers located on islands or peninsulas  
 52 off the Connecticut coast or harbors, embayments, tidal rivers, streams  
 53 or creeks. Nothing in section 16-244j, this section or sections 25-157a to  
 54 25-157c, inclusive, shall be construed to affect the project in the  
 55 corridor across Long Island Sound, from Norwalk to Northport, New  
 56 York, to replace the existing electric cables that cross the sound. During  
 57 such twelve-month moratorium on applications relating to crossings of  
 58 Long Island Sound, the Institute of Sustainable Energy at the Eastern  
 59 Connecticut State University shall chair and convene a task force of the  
 60 parties described in section 25-157a in order to undertake the tasks  
 61 described in section 25-157a.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To extend the moratoria established by public act 02-95 until October 15, 2003.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. DUFF, 137th Dist.; REP. FRITZ, 90th Dist.  
 REP. MILLER, 122nd Dist.; SEN. FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.

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